

Transcript of Professor Mahendra Patel Clip

MP: Then we went on to PANORAMIC trial, we were the first in the world to be approved with a novel antiviral agent and this is akin to using antibiotics which was Molnupiravir that was licensed for use in the treatment of Covid-19 that we wanted to see how it worked in our UK population and again that became an urgent priority clinical trial for the UK and whilst it had excellent results in other countries that showed reduced hospitalisation, reduced death rates, early recovery those nations and the people within that were not vaccinated. We had a population that had over 90% of people vaccinated. We wanted to see if that drug worked in our vaccinated population if they had Covid, does it help people recover earlier? Does it help reduce hospitalisation? Does it help reduce the number of deaths?

And that became the largest and fastest recruiting clinical trial in the world for primary care intervention and we recruited over 25,500 patients in under four months.

We found that Molnupiravir does actually improve recovery, but it doesn't actually reduce hospitalisation from the data that we found but the PANORAMIC trial is still looking at other anti-virals as well.

Taking the trials to people's homes without the people actually leaving their home was something innovative as a platform trial and this is not just about ethnicity and religion because we also reached out to people living with disabilities and we had young disability champions where they recorded a video for us; a young boy who's an ambassador, Will Browning, with his sister Jemima Browning; Will is her younger brother who has Downs Syndrome and they recorded a video to help promote that amongst people with disability – learning disability as well.

The one thing that I really felt because I'm not Oxford material and to be one of the national leads on a national trial and then also become a co-applicant on one of the largest clinical trials in the world it has sort of made me think so many times over that I just couldn't believe that, but I have to be very grateful to Oxford because never did they ask me, "Mahendra, what are you doing?" They just let me get on with it and that's where I created havoc!

I was awarded an OBE, but it wasn't as a result of the Covid work, it was in the New Years' Honours list of 2022 really and I felt very emotional and very humble.

I think the one achievement that I really, really have is how pharmacy now is appearing at the University of Oxford, on the world's number one university and it's great for pharmacy, it's great for today's pharmacists but it's great for tomorrow's pharmacists and here's an excellent opportunity for pharmacists to showcase what they can do.

it's this Centre for Research Equity which is now going to collaborate with Sir Michael Marmot's team. It was difficult because you didn't have anybody to physically talk to at the time during this two years of work. I didn't know the people at Oxford because I'd never met them [laughing] apart from on team calls and things like that and it was intimidating for me to move from a humble background, but it's an evolving centre, let's see how it grows and develops but that's where we are really...

JN: A legacy from Covid really

MP: Absolutely. This is what Covid did, you know. I still reflect that, so yeah, there we are.